

LOCAL PEOPLE BEFORE NATIONAL POLITICS



OUR MANIFESTO FOR ANDOVER 2019

INTRODUCTION



The **Andover Alliance** is a group of independent locals who are working together having rejected national party politics. Our aim, with your help and support, is to get people elected at all levels of local government to change Andover for the better.

We believe that pushing the agenda of a national party is getting in the way of Andover seeing the improvements it so desperately needs. We have no left or right politics as a group. We consist of people from all walks of life, local business people, mums, charity workers the list goes on. Most of all, we are regular people like you.

For the last 20 years, Andover has voted for the same people to run things and I'm sure you will agree that the truth is, no one else in power can be responsible for the state Andover is in.

It's time to look to the future, to get young people involved in politics and to make sure that those in need, especially the elderly, have security too.

All too often when presented with a problem, our individual councils say "it's not our problem". We aim to change that by bringing our councils together and focusing their efforts on the problems Andover faces.

Only with your help and support, can we bring about the positive changes that Andover so desperately needs.

So come on, **let's get the job done!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Bevan'.

FOUNDER - ANDOVER ALLIANCE

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1. A Greener, Cleaner Andover



LOCAL WILDLIFE PRESERVATION



In Andover, the lack of natural habitat, especially chalk grasslands, is causing many species to become threatened or on the verge of extinction. These include the White-letter and Brown Hairstreak Butterflies, Small Blue, and many more besides.

We want to reverse this ecological disaster and create a sustainable future for our environment.

LOCAL RECYCLING



TVBC has a poor recycling record. Out of 350 Councils, TVBC is ranked at a shocking 293 (percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting (Ex NI192)).

It's time to take out the trash and improve our recycling!

BETTER LOCAL WATER



Recent research suggested various contaminants can be found in our rivers and drinking water, which could be harmful to us, our farming and wildlife.

We want to ensure Water Companies are using state-of-art technology to keep our rivers and drinking water as clean as possible.

BETTER LOCAL AIR QUALITY



Air quality was omitted by TVBC in their current set of policies for Andover in its local plan. The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16 billion.

In an expanding town like Andover, this is unacceptable. We are committed to improving our air quality.

OUR ACTIONS

- Create an Andover Bio-diversity plan.
- Wildflower seeding pilot scheme.
- A wildlife garden scheme for Andover residents.
- Improve riverbanks in Andover.
- New bins for glass and food waste.
- Free single bag garden waste collection.
- Commitment to keep the tip free and open.
- Review current bi-weekly waste collection service.
- Hold Water Companies to account.
- Better planning to save water.
- Pilot scheme to install hundreds of water butts.
- Promote awareness of water saving measures to reduce extraction rates.
- Electric car charging points.
- Better monitoring of air quality.
- Pilot scheme for "catch the bus week".
- More solar power helping to reduce bills.
- Better cycling routes in and around the town.

2. A Better Future for Andover's Young People



Every young person needs somewhere to go, something to do and someone to speak to. For many young people, their local youth club is the only safe space they have to get the support they need. However, after eight years of austerity, Andover has no recognisable youth services at all!



The scale of cuts cannot be overstated. Recent research has found that overall spending on youth services in England has fallen by £737m (62%) since 2010. Between 2012 and 2016, 600 youth centres closed, 3,500 youth workers lost their jobs and 140,000 places for young people went.

This is having a devastating impact on young lives across the country. In a 2016 survey youth workers were asked about the impact of youth service cuts; 83% said they were having an effect on crime and antisocial behaviour, and 71% said it was now harder for young people to stay in formal education.

Various studies have shown the economic benefit of investing in youth work. For example, a 2016 study in Scotland estimated a return of £7 of value for every £1 spent on youth work. By cutting youth services, they have only shifted the burden on to other public services. Rising levels of mental-health problems, substance abuse and antisocial behaviour will only increase pressures on statutory services.

SUPPORT, COMMITMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

A fully funded youth service for Andover

Help Create: a varied youth service targeted at vulnerable young people, which takes place on young people's own territory such as streets, cafes, parks and community places, at times that are appropriate to them.

Help Provide: open access youth work for all young people, which is focused on identifying groups of young people, based on particular needs and often with predefined purposes or outcomes; often operating through 1-1 meetings between youth worker and young person. Centre based youth work is delivered from a specific venue where young people are able to participate in a range of activities in a safe environment.



Support: school-based work and youth development by promoting Positive Youth Development through School Based Social and Emotional Learning Interventions.

Support: voluntary-based learning, and as supporting our PCSOs.

Giving young people a voice

Nobody knows better than children and young people, what their lives are really like. We're here to listen to them and help them get the support they need. We're serious about that. Children and young people don't always feel comfortable speaking out, especially if they've had difficult experiences in the past. We're committed to helping them make sure their voice is heard in a way that feels safe, and in a way that helps them feel stronger and more able to recover when they face challenges in their lives.

Youth participation

There is a need to cultivate a culture of democratic participation, especially among young people. Young people these days are equipped with equal and better opportunities to access information and gain knowledge about the concept of democracy and politics. This equal opportunity stretches out to participation of youth in democratic decisions, like taking part in elections. However, even with the above given advantages that the youth have, their interest in taking part in democratic matters is still lacking.

3. A Secure Future for Andover's Elderly

SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social isolation is one of the growing challenges of our time and affects all age groups. We will focus on bringing communities and different generations together by supporting local community groups and by improving the coordination of public services and community groups.



Research shows that older people who are socially isolated have poorer health trajectories and the risk of death is 31% higher than for those who are not isolated.

These figures reinforce findings in the UK about the cost of loneliness to the public purse. The London School of Economics estimates that each lonely older person could cost health and social care services up to £6,000 over 10 years.

Lonely older people are 1.8 times more likely to visit their GP, 1.6 times more likely to visit A&E and 3.5 times more likely to enter local authority-funded residential care, according to Social Finance, a not-for-profit organisation that works with the government and other partners to tackle social problems.

AGEING WELL AT HOME

The charity, Care & Repair England promotes a Vision of Ageing Well at Home which we fully support. A safe, warm and well maintained home is the foundation of better health and well-being.

The simple aspiration of the majority of older people is to live safely and well at home. They want to age well at home, be safe, warm and comfortable, play an active part in their community and be actively involved with family and friends. Home adaptations can make or break older people's ability to live independently and well. They are a cost effective way of reducing falls and hospital admissions, as well as improving quality of life for individuals and carers.



An ageing society means we need more imaginative housing options for older people of all tenures, both mainstream and specialist housing. Older people – experts through experience – need to be engaged and involved in developing and delivering housing strategies and solutions for later life at all levels of local government.

OUR ACTIONS

- Produce a strategy for reducing social isolation.
- Pilot scheme for a Reconnections service.
- Support multi-generational integration schemes.
- Work with community groups to identify and support people at risk of isolation.
- Support the voluntary and community sector to build referral partnerships with frontline staff (GPs, community nurses, police, fire services and social workers).
- Re-introduce local authority house condition audits.
- Establish a register of accessible, adaptable housing.
- Engagement of elderly in developing housing strategies and solutions.
- Small "healthy at home" grants for essential repairs for disadvantaged older people.
- Build better mainstream housing particularly suitable for later life.

4. A Helping Hand for Disability

SEEING



Getting around in our town can be difficult for people who have poor or no sight.

Existing Andover pedestrian areas are littered with obstacles, street furniture, low kerbs and concrete balls!

Inaccessible public transport makes it extremely difficult for blind and partially sighted people to get out and about independently.

HEARING



For those who are unable to hear, communication can be a huge issue.

For the hard of hearing, tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, making friends and having fun, can be overwhelming.

In 2018, Romsey became the first Makaton-friendly town, helping the hard of hearing communicate with businesses, charities, and the councils.

MOVEMENT



For those who are physically disabled, Andover's Town Centre can be a daunting place.

From our pedestrian areas littered with curbs that can unbalance a wheelchair, to obstacles entering businesses or visiting their toilets.

We want to help overcome these issues to make Andover the first accessibility friendly Town Centre in the UK.

MENTAL HEALTH



One in four of us will experience mental health problems at some time.

Mental health services and social care deal with the effects of Mental Health, but our Councils must play a leading role in stopping these problems before they begin.

By focusing on prevention and early intervention, we can have a profound positive impact in our Town.

OUR ACTIONS

- We will carry out a review of our street environments, to create a safer Town Centre for those with disabilities.
- We will work with both public and community transport providers to see the introduction of audio visual announcements on all new buses.
- We will encourage and support local organisations to make Andover the next Makaton-friendly town in the UK.
- We will work with local businesses to provide disabled people with independent access to premises and disabled toilets.
- We will make investment grants available for the installation of automated doors and lifts.
- We will implement **Thrive Andover**, a ten year programme to improve the mental health and well-being of everyone in Andover, with a focus on those with the greatest needs.

5. Help in Facing Adversity

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES



Houses are not just places to live, they are homes, and good quality homes and the right type of homes, create stronger communities.

However, it is a growing concern for many families, both in Andover and across Test Valley, that housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable. This unaffordability is creating an epidemic level of homelessness.

ANDOVER CREDIT UNION



Debt and living with debt, has a major impact on people's health and well-being. The consequences can be far reaching, particularly for those who are continually struggling to balance their budgets, get loans or pay their rent or mortgage.

We want people of all ages to become financially independent, to help improve their health and well-being.

YOUNG SAVERS SCHEME



According to the Money Advice Trust, 51% of 18 to 24 year olds say they regularly worry about money. Around a third (32%) feel their debts are "a heavy burden" and more than a fifth (21%) say they sometimes cannot sleep because of money worries.

Better fiscal education is key to resolving debt and the stress of debt.

TACKLING HOMELESSNESS



The levels of homelessness in Test Valley represents a failure of our local government. Not only are we committed to preventing it, we want to eliminate homelessness.

Pets provide emotional support, companionship, help reduce our stress levels and help increase our social activities. And yet, many people are offered "no pets" housing.

OUR ACTIONS

- Invest £10 million a year to create a continuing, long term council housing build programme, with priority given to the housing needs of local people and veterans.
- Radically overhaul the council waiting list system to make it more effective and house more people in less time.
- Create the Andover Credit Union, whose mission would be to help improve the financial well-being of all its members.
- Work with local businesses and community groups to provide fiscal education and advice to staff.
- Pilot a young savers scheme linked to Andover Credit Union.
- Work with local schools and college to provide fiscal education and advice.
- Invest in community work programmes for those homeless and out of work.
- Pilot a Housing First Scheme to get long-term homeless people off the street.
- Introduce a "Lets for Pets" scheme, to help keep owners and their pets together.

6. Andover's Business Revolution



BUSINESS SUPPORT



We believe that it's time to start a business revolution here in Andover by helping to support both existing and the founding of new businesses.

By supporting them and helping their new ideas flourish, we can radically improve the life chances of people from Andover.

TOWN PARKING



Recent research has shown that almost 70 per cent of businesses reported that free parking can have a positive impact on their business.

With additional free car parking, there will be no excuse for illegal parking within the Town Centre. People found illegally parking on double yellow lines, blocking fire exits etc, will be prosecuted.

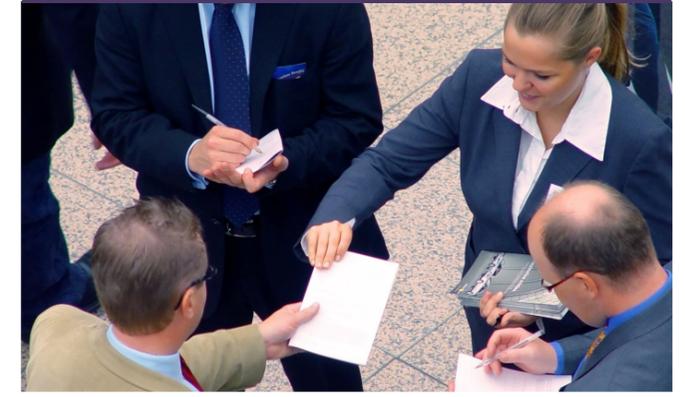
INVESTMENT BANK



Since 2008, there has been a reduction in the amount of money made available to businesses by the traditional mainstream banks. This has stifled business investment and growth, which has had a negative impact on our economy.

We want to break this deadlock by providing financial opportunities to help local businesses grow, through a return to community banking.

BUSINESS FORUM



We believe the Andover Business Improvement District (BID) is discriminatory and adds another financial burden on Andover's already struggling High Street businesses. We want to scrap the BID as soon as legally possible and introduce an improved system.

We also want businesses to play a greater part in shaping future local government business investment.

OUR ACTIONS

- Create a department store for local business Start-Ups.
- Introduce a local business advisory team to help businesses become more viable in the longer term.
- Use local contractors as much as possible, keeping a sustainable local skill base.
- We propose introducing a Pay on Exit system to our three main Council owned town centre car parks.
- Introduce a scheme for parking with an initial free period to encourage people to stay longer and shop more.
- Create a local investment bank for direct investment in local businesses, which will provide a future source of income to re-invest.
- Invest in making Andover a Science, Engineering and Technology destination for business.
- Scrap the Andover BID.
- Our Local Councils commit spending to match previous BID tax.
- Establish a business forum where local businesses advise our Councils on their future requirements.

7. Town Centre Regeneration - The Next 10 years

COVERED MARKET



Andover is an historic Market Town and we want to celebrate and build on this. We want to make the most of this regeneration opportunity and strengthen the economic health and social fabric of Andover. The creation of a new, covered market, not only provides employment opportunities for traders, but also creates a dynamic, entertaining place at the heart of Andover.

GEORGIAN REDEVELOPMENT



We all know Andover's 1960's redevelopment, destroyed much of Andover's cultural history and character. We want to restore the heart and soul of Andover with a Georgian redevelopment that meets the needs of modern living. Incorporating shops, businesses and residential accommodation, this redevelopment will breathe new life into our Town Centre.

NEW BUILDINGS



Our Councils are largely responsible for the decline of Andover, by failing to redevelop the Chantry Centre and other areas. We want to revitalise our Town Centre by creating an environment that will attract businesses, residents and tourists.

We are determined to work with you, so that we deliver a vibrant, dynamic and sustainable future for Andover.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Decades of unnecessary cuts to Andover's Community Facilities have contributed to the decline of Andover Town Centre and the general health and well-being of the community.

We know the value local people, businesses and tourists place on Community Facilities and we are committed to their restoration and the introduction of more facilities.

OUR ACTIONS

- Knock down the old Tesco building in town and replace with a covered market and a hanging stepped garden opposite the shops - opening up the vista to the Town Mills park.
- Re-model the High Street to increase dwelling time of shoppers.
- Build smaller shops.
- Redevelop George Yard and Black Swan Yard.
- New Town Centre residential accommodation.
- Work with landlords to restore original building features.
- Demolish the Chantry Centre and rebuild better and cheaper to run.
- New Civic building for council and community organisations.
- New buildings for larger stores.
- New Theatre, dance venue, exhibition centre, and tourist attractions.
- Re-establish attended toilets in all Andover main car parks.
- Create a combined Tourist and Community Information Office in Andover Town Centre.
- Enhance Vigo Park, to include a new Bandstand and café-pavilion.

8. Better Support for Veterans

THE COVENANT



TVBC was recently called the worst Council in the country to help with veterans affairs, by national charity Homes for Veterans.

Andover is now the Home of the British Army HQ and with nearby Middle Wallop (Army Aviation) and many other military facilities, Andover has a large number of veterans in our community.

A VETERANS' OFFICER



Ensuring that our Councils, especially TVBC, help our veterans and are held to account, is top of the list of our priorities.

We will provide leadership for veterans affairs where all levels of local and national government have failed those who have served our country.

FAIR HOUSING



We are committed to supporting those who served in times of war, military conflict and peace, and to keeping the memory of their achievements and sacrifices alive for all.

Veterans can often have issues being housed after they leave the forces, especially those suffering from physical and mental health issues, who are unable to work.

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY



More than just housing is needed to help forces personnel adjust to civilian life.

Community Engagement is essential to ensure our veterans are not left behind in our society.

OUR ACTIONS

- Regardless of the National Covenant, we will go above and beyond this Covenant, to ensure that veterans in Andover are treated with respect and receive the support they need.
- We will introduce a Veterans Officer (VO) as a paid role within TVBC, who will be an advocate for any veteran presenting an issue.
- The VO will ensure internal departments respond quickly and rapidly to our veterans.
- Increase housing priority for veterans taking them to the top level of need within the system.
- Support Programmes to engage the Andover civilian population with our serving personnel and our veterans, so that everyone can better understand their issues.
- Support activities and the development of resources for veterans.

9. A Safer Andover



LOWER CRIME



The best way to tackle crime is to stop it from happening in the first place, which can only be achieved by involving people in tackling crime.

Investment in measures to prevent people getting involved in crime, is more effective in reducing offending and reoffending rates.

MORE POLICE



For far too long, the police budget has been cut by Central Government and policing services have been reduced to an unacceptable level.

This has resulted in the absence of police on our streets and within our communities, leading to increased crime and anti-social behaviour. We want to reverse this unacceptable trend.

ANTI-DRUG TASKFORCE



We are all increasingly concerned about the rapid growth of drug dealing and drug use, with the number of discarded needles found in public places increasing. Both local dealers and organised crime groups from other cities are now operating in Andover.

We believe a better, coordinated approach is required to tackle this drug epidemic.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



From a safe distance, anti-social behaviour (ASB) might not seem serious. But if it's your home or your street, it can leave you feeling intimidated, frightened and make whole areas feel unsafe. Anti-social behaviour almost always starts off small but over time, the behaviour gets more serious.

We want effective preventative measures introduced to combat this.

OUR ACTIONS

- Investment in accessible and high quality support services for people with mental health, drug, alcohol or other social problems.
- Work with Hampshire Police and our community to produce more effective crime prevention.
- Lobby for the restoration of real neighbourhood policing, as a visible local presence and helping to prevent and detect crime.
- Work with the Police Commissioner to secure an increase in numbers of both police officers and police community support officers.
- Establish a multi-organisation Task Force to target drug abuse, promote the dangers of drugs and provide services for rehabilitation of drug addicts.
- Work with businesses, schools and college to better educate staff and students on the dangers of drugs.
- Re-establish fully funded youth services for Andover.
- Work with Hampshire Police and our community to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Support community groups providing youth and adult activities.

10. Accountable Local Government

We want Andover to become a place where communities are at the heart of housing and infrastructure development, working as essential partners throughout. This requires Councils to rebalance their thinking towards residents, not developers, making sure growth enhances our communities.



We want communities to take an active role in the development of local housing, so that future growth enhances their neighbourhoods.

Citizens' juries have developed as a form of participatory research that seeks to legitimise non-expert knowledge. As with a legal trial, a citizens' jury assumes that if a group of people are presented with evidence, they can evaluate this and draw conclusions that are representative of the wider public.

The uniqueness of citizens' juries lies in involving citizens in developing their knowledge of a specific policy

area, asking questions of expert witnesses, collective group discussions and deliberation and reaching a final decision. They are often used alongside other research and public consultation tools such as surveys, interviews and focus groups and are intended to complement other forms of consultation, rather than replace them.

Citizens' juries can be used to broker a conflict, or to provide a transparent and non-aligned viewpoint. Citizen jurors bring with them an intrinsic worth in the good sense and wisdom born of their own knowledge and personal experience.

THE CITIZENS' JURY

You are the boss!

- Select a broadly representative group of approximately 12-16 people. Determine a question important to the issue being considered or develop a series of options for the jury to consider. Consider incentives and briefing packs for delegates.
- Book a venue.
- Plan pre and post event surveys to measure the shift in opinion.
- Identify budget for delegate support and incentives (if used).
- Recruit and brief expert witnesses.
- Brief jurors on the rules of the proceedings, and allow them two to four days to come to a recommendation.
- Provide expert witnesses to brief the jury who can be cross-examined and who can spend time discussing the issue with the jury.
- Engage independent moderator(s) to assist the process of deliberation.
- At the agreed time, arrange a presentation from the panel and/or collect the jury's report, which should outline their recommendations.
- Publish the report and recommendations (this would normally be done by the commissioning body).
- If the recommendations of the citizens' jury are not followed up, publish the reasons for not following up (this would normally be done by the commissioning body).



DO YOU HAVE A COUNCIL RELATED ISSUE YOU NEED HELP WITH?



Cllr David Coole

Email
dc.andoveralliance@gmail.com

Phone
07976 565470



Cllr Richard Rowles

Facebook
@AndoverRowles

Email
Richard@rowles.co.uk

Phone
07779 212 064

COME AND JOIN THE ANDOVER ALLIANCE

- ✓ Help us stand up for our local values and build a better community for all.
- ✓ Get involved with community campaigns on issues that matter to you.
- ✓ Stand for office and make a positive change for your local community.

WHY NOT GET IN TOUCH?

MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE COME AND JOIN THE ANDOVER ALLIANCE

